Demands for worsted fabrics and readymade garments abroad

3076. PROF NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTLES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an emerging demand from various countries for worsted fabrics and for readymade garments;

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the estimated demand for both the products in each country;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have projected exports in the Ninth Five Year Plan, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities specially in decentralised sector are highly inadequate; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide them?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been an emerging demand for worsted fabrics from the E.U., Canada, the U.A.E., the U.S.A., Singapore and Saudi Arabia and for readymade garments from the U.S.A., the E.U., Canada, the U.A.E. and Australia etc.

(c) No. Sir, Government have not yet made projections for exports for the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

(d) and (e) The processing facilities, specially for the decentralised sector, require to be modernised. To motivate this sector to take up modernisation, the Government have given various incentives, which inter-alia include the liberalisation of the industrial policy, permitting imports of capital goods freely for setting up processing units in the country; import of capital goods including those for the processing sector at concessional rate of duty against an export obligation and the reduction in the import duty of some specified capital goods for the processing sector, from 25% to 10%.

Fresh talks with Bangladesh on repatriation of refugees

3077. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take a fresh talks with the new Government of Bangladesh for the repatriation of Bangladeshi refugees from the country particularly from the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have done by any census of Bangladesh refugees in Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and other parts of the North-East; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Foreign secretary of Bangladesh was in Delhi recently in August, 1996. During his visit, the Bangladesh side expressed its willingness to take back the remaining Chakma refugees. Bangladesh also agreed to consider the suggestion that a group of recently elected Members of Parliament from the Chittagaon Hill Tracts Area may visit the refugees camps and encourage the refugees to return to Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) The office of Registrar General, India has not done any special census of Bangladesh refugees in Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and other parts of the North-East.

New national highways in Karnataka

3078. SHRI GINDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no new National Highways have been declared in the State of Karnataka since 1972;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have recently received any proposals from the Karnataka Government for declaration of Mysore-Srirangapatnam-Bidar road as National Highway; and